

Please amend the claims as follows.

1-17. (Canceled) Please cancel without prejudice claims 1-17.

18. (Currently amended) A method for forming a separable fastener component for use with a complementary separable fastener component, said method comprising the steps of:

a. forming a plurality of fastening segments, each fastening segment comprising:

- i. a base member, having a nominal fastening face and a non-fastening face; and
- ii. carried on said fastening face of said base member, a plurality of fastening elements selected from the group consisting of hook-type and loop-type elements; and

b. joining each adjacent pair of fastening segments with a flexible neck that is:

- i. significantly narrower than said fastening segment[[]];
- ii. integral with said base member of any adjacent segments; and
- iii. substantially uniform in composition with said base member of any adjacent segments.

19. (original) The method for forming a separable fastener component of claim 18, said step of forming a plurality of fastening segments comprising the steps of:

a. providing, on a mold body, a plurality of spaced apart mold cavities shaped to form said fastening segments and between and joining each of said fastening segment mold cavities, a mold cavity shaped to form said flexible neck;

b. providing molding material to said mold cavities under sufficient pressure to force said molding material into said mold cavities; and

c. removing said molding material from said cavities after said material has been formed into said fastening segments connected by said necks, to form said fastener component.

20. (Original) The method for forming a separable fastener component of claim 19, said step of providing molding material comprising providing molding material to said mold cavities directly through an extrusion nozzle that is closely spaced from said mold cavities.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a separable fastener component for use with a complementary separable fastener component, said method comprising the steps of:

a. forming a plurality of fastening segments,
each fastening segment comprising:

- i. a base member, having a nominal fastening face and a non-fastening face; and
- ii. carried on said fastening face of said base member, a plurality of fastening elements selected from the group consisting of hook-type and loop-type elements;

said forming step comprising the steps of:

iii. ~~The method for forming a separable fastener component of claim 19, said~~ providing on a mold body comprising a mold wheel, ~~carrying said mold cavities~~ on a peripheral edge, a plurality of spaced apart mold cavities shaped to form said fastening segments and between and joining each of said fastening segment mold cavities, a mold cavity shaped to form a flexible neck;

iv. providing molding material to said mold cavities under sufficient pressure to force said molding material into said mold cavities,
said step of providing molding material comprising:

[a] A. providing a second wheel with a peripheral edge closely spaced from said mold wheel so as to form a nip therebetween; and

[b] B. providing molding material to said nip such that molding material is forced into said mold cavities under pressure generated at said nip between

said molding wheel and said second wheel
thereby forming said fastening segments
and thereby joining each adjacent pair of
fastening segments with a flexible neck
that is significantly narrower than said
fastening segment; and

b. removing said formed molding material from
said cavities after said material has been formed into
said fastening segments connected by said necks, to form
said fastener component.

22. (Currently amended) A method for forming a separable
fastener component for use with a complementary separable
fastener component, said method comprising the steps of:

a. forming a plurality of fastening segments,
each fastening segment comprising:

i. a base member, having a nominal fastening
face and a non-fastening face; and

ii. carried on said fastening face of said
base member, a plurality of fastening elements
selected from the group consisting of hook-
type and loop-type elements;

said forming step comprising the steps of:

iii. ~~The method for forming a separable
fastener component of claim 19, said~~
providing, on a mold body comprising a
plurality of mold plates having similarly
curved arcuate edges that are arranged
parallel to each other, a plurality of spaced

apart ~~said~~ mold cavities, ~~being~~ formed in said arcuate edges, shaped to form said fastening segments and between and joining each of said fastening segment mold cavities, a mold cavity shaped to form a flexible neck;

iv. providing molding material to said mold cavities under sufficient pressure to force said molding material into said mold cavities thereby forming said fastening segments and thereby joining each adjacent pair of fastening segments with a flexible neck that is significantly narrower than said fastening segment; and

b. removing said formed molding material from said cavities after said material has been formed into said fastening segments connected by said necks, to form said fastener component.

23. (Original) The method for forming a separable fastener component of claim 22, said mold plates comprising circular mold plates.

24. (Original) The method for forming a separable fastener component of claim 22, said mold plates comprising segments of a circle, said arcuate edges of said segments comprising a portion of a circle, certain of said mold plates being supported so that they are movable in a radial direction relative to said arcuate edge, thereby facilitating removal of a molded fastener component from said mold cavities, said step of removing molding material from said

cavities comprising the step of moving radially inward said movable plates so as to release said molded material.

25. (Original) The method for forming a separable fastener component of claim 19, said step of providing molding material comprising providing molding material to said mold cavities through an injection mold having at least two parts.

26. (Original) The method of claim 18, each fastener segment further comprising, a gasket that extends fully around the perimeter of said segmented region, at least as far from said base member as said fastening elements.

27. (Original) The method of claim 19, each fastener segment further comprising, a gasket that extends fully around the perimeter of said segmented region, at least as far from said base member as said fastening elements, said method further comprising the steps of providing, on said mold body, for each of said plurality of spaced apart mold cavities shaped to form said fastening segments, a mold cavity shaped to form said perimeter gasket, further comprising, substantially simultaneously with said step of providing molding material to said fastening segment mold cavities, the step of providing molding material to said perimeter gasket mold cavities under sufficient pressure to force said molding material into said perimeter gasket mold cavities.

32. (Currently amended) A method for forming a molded polymeric body carrying a segmented, separable fastener component, said method comprising the steps of:

a. providing a mold, having at least one surface that has a trench therein, where said trench follows a path that has at least two portions that are angled relative to each other in a plane;

b. locating in said trench a continuous, integral separable fastener strip component comprising:

i. a plurality of fastening segments, each having a length along a length dimension and a width, along a width dimension that is perpendicular to said length dimension, arranged adjacent each other, along said length dimension, each fastening segment comprising:

A. a base member, having a nominal fastening face and a non-fastening face; and

B. carried on said fastening face of said base member, a plurality of fastening elements selected from the group consisting of hook-type and loop-type elements, said fastening segments located with said fastening elements extending toward said mold surface; and

ii. located between and joining each adjacent pair of fastening segments, ~~a~~ only one flexible neck at approximately a midpoint of

each segment width, that is narrower than said fastening segment, is integral with said base member of any adjacent segments, and is substantially uniform in composition with said base member of any adjacent segments, said separable fastener component arranged in said trench such that it bends at said necks so that it follows said path throughout said at least two portions that are angled relative to each other, such that segments of said fastener component are angled relative to each other, within a plane defined by said base members of said fastening segments;

c. providing liquid molding material into said mold such that said molding material substantially covers at least said surface of said mold in which said trench resides, and such that molding material contacts a significant portion of said base member of said fastening component, while simultaneously preventing said liquid molding material from contacting said fastening elements; and

d. allowing said molding material to solidify to form said molded polymeric body, whereby said fastening component is secured to said molded body.

33. (Original) The method of forming a molded body of claim 32, where each of said fastening segments comprises a gasket that extends fully around the perimeter of said segmented region, said step of preventing said liquid molding material from contacting said fastening elements comprising

pressing said gasket toward said mold surface such that molding material is blocked from contacting said fastening elements.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, said gasket comprising a perimeter lip that has been integrally formed with said fastening elements.

35. (Original) The fastener of claim 33, said gasket comprising a perimeter lip that has been applied to said base member separately from said fastening elements.

36-42. (Canceled) Please cancel without prejudice claims 36-42.